Pet Owners Beware? A Case of Drug-Resistant Pasteurella Multocida Infection

Abraham Wei, Nehal Dhaduk, Basil Taha
Department of Infectious Diseases, Rutgers NJMS

Background
- Pasteurella spp is a facultative-anaerobic, Gram-negative coccobacilli highly prevalent amongst the oral flora of many animal species.
- Most human Pasteurella spp infections are due to cat and dog bites.
- Clinical manifestations range from cellulitis to meningitis and septic shock1,2.
- Treatment for animal bites with suspected Pasteurella spp usually entails a combination of amoxicillin and the β-lactamase inhibitor clavulanic acid3.
  - Drug resistance in Pasteurella spp human infections are rarely reported in literature4,5.

Clinical Case
- A 24-year-old female with a past medical history of type 2 diabetes mellitus (HbA1c 10.2%) and congenital heart disease status-post surgical repair presented with a right hand abscess 1 day after a cat bite.
- Had right hand and forearm swelling, pain, and discharge draining from the puncture sites.
- Afebrile without leukocytosis.
- X-ray of the right hand/wrist/elbow showed soft tissue swelling at the wrist.
- Had incision and drainage of the wrist abscess.
- Started on ampicillin-sulbactam and then discharged on amoxicillin-clavulanic acid.

Clinical Case (cont.)
- Abscess culture later grew Pasteurella multocida, and disk diffusion susceptibility testing showed resistance to penicillin, ampicillin, and amoxicillin-clavulanic acid.
  - Repeat disk diffusion test with same results.
  - Cefinase test positive for the presence of β-lactamase.
- Antibiotics was switched to levofloxacin at 4 days post-discharge. Patient continued to do well after hospital discharge and did not develop any complications when seen in the outpatient clinic 8 days post-discharge.

Discussion & Conclusion
- Potential emergence of drug-resistant Pasteurella spp may alter our therapeutic approach to animal bites in the future. Figure below shows current and potential new antibiotic treatment algorithm.

    ![Algorithm Image]

    Animal bite infection

    1st Line

    Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid

    Eventual 2nd Line?

    One agent with activity against Pasteurella:
    - Fluoroquinolone
    - TMP-SMX
    - Cefuroxime
    - Doxycycline

    PLUS

    One agent with anaerobic activity:
    - Metronidazole
    - Clindamycin

- Infections with drug-resistant Pasteurella spp can increase risk for treatment failures and complications.
- Literature review reveals cases of amoxicillin resistance in Pasteurella infections4-6; however, none showed resistance to amoxicillin-clavulanic acid.
- Epidemiology studies in felines have shown a near 100% susceptibility to amoxicillin-clavulanic acid7-8.
- Possible source of resistance could be the pet food if it contains food animal products which have been found to carry antimicrobial resistant organisms including Pasteurella spp resistant to amoxicillin-clavulanic acid9,10.
- Need further epidemiologic studies on Pasteurella spp antibiotic susceptibilities in both humans and cats.

References